customs duty concession/exemption for MRI or other costly imported equipment is presently under consideration with the Ministry of Finance.

NPA OF BANKS

1243. SHRI NANDI YELALIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 27 banks written off Rs. 15,053 crores as bad loans in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details since 2002;

(c) the details of remedial measures taken so far in the banking system to remedy this deplorable state of affairs which is going against the interest of depositors and the nation;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor in not taking remedial measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Banks have written off Rs. 15,876 crores during the past two years (i.e. 2001-02 and 2002-03). The total loans written off by Public Sector Banks in 2002-03 amounted to Rs. 9,448 crores whereas in the financial years 2001-02, it amounted to Rs. 6,428 crores.

(c) and (d) Loans are written off as a last resort by the banks when all efforts to recover the loans fail or as part of settlement with the borrowers. To avoid this writing off and recover dues of the bank, Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps on a continuous basis. These *inter-alia* include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits (in civil courts/ DRTs), compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers among the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Asset Reconstruction Company (India Ltd.) has been incorporated for the purpose of addressing Non-performing Assets. "The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" has been enacted to tackle the problem of chronic non-performing assets.

Prosecution of Companies by SEBI

1244. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prosecution launched so far by the Securities and Exchange Board of India against companies and their promoters indulging in insider trading and in various market rigging manipulative games;

(b) details of action taken so-far, against the promoters of Global Trust Bank of India and Himachal Futuristic involved in the 1991-92 Stock Market Scam;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor in not taking any action; and

(d) the present status of Global Trust Bank of India's share-holders, specially small investors having GTB shares after its merger with Oriental Bank of Commerce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of prosecution cases launched by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) against various companies, its promoters and other entities for violations under the SEBI (Insider Trading) Regulations, 1992 and SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 1995, as indicated by SEBI, are at Annex.

(b) SEBI had conducted an investigation into the buying, selling and dealing in the shares of Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd (HFCL) for the period from October 1, 1999 to March 31, 2001. Pursuant to findings of investigations, SEBI had initiated quasi-judicial proceedings against HFCL, 14 promoters/associate companies and their Directors. Showcause notices under the SEBI Act 1992 read with SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003 have been issued to HFCL/its Directors and promoters/associate companies of HFCL and their directors on August 30, 2004 asking them to showcause why suitable directions, including a direction restraining from accessing the capital market/buying, selling or dealing in securities for a particular duration should not be passed against them.